

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1362

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA CAUTIOUSLY APPROVES NEW GREEK REGIME

1. IN THE FIRST DETAILED SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN GREECE (PRAVDA, AUGUST 3), CORRESPONDENT V. MENSHIKOV IN ATHENS GIVES A POSITIVE EVALUATION OF ITS CHARACTER AND ACTIONS BUT POINTS TO THE NEED FOR FURTHER CHANGES, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION BY LEFTIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES.

2. MENSHIKOV DESCRIBES FAVORABLY THE NEW ATMOSPHERE IN GREECE AS WELL AS SPECIFIC ACTIONS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT: POLITICAL AMNESTY, CLOSURE OF A CONCENTRATION CAMP, REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS, DISASSOCIATION FROM THE COUP ON CYPRUS CERBAL RECOGNITION OF THE MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT, AND RESTORATION

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OF THE 1952 CONSTITUTION. HE GOES ON TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT

THE EXCLUSION OF LEFTISTS AND COMMUNISTS, AS WELL AS THE BAN ON THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITY, SHOWS THE LIMITATIONS OF THE CHANGES SO FAR. MENSHIKOV WARNS THAT THESE LIMITATIONS CARRY THE DANGER OF A "RETURN TO FASCISM" AND THAT ONE MUST NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A COUNTER-ATTACK BY FORCES OF REACTION AND MILITARISM, WHO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN NATO.

3. THE SAME TONE OF RESERVED APPROVAL ALSO CHARACTERIZED THE COMMENT ON GREECE IN PRAVDA'S SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW AUGUST 4.
STOESSEL

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